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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,447	10/15/2003	Scott Edward Watson		6864

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Scott Edward Watson
4841 Winton Way
San Jose, CA 95124

EXAMINER

SNIEZEK, ANDREW L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2651

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/686,447

Applicant(s)

WATSON, SCOTT EDWARD

Examiner

Andrew L. Sniezek

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings filed 10/15/03 are acceptable to the Examiner.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains the word "means" reserved for use in claims. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

3. Claim 4 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(a) because of the following informalities: The phrases "the drive chassis" and "the host device chassis" are not adequately described previously in the claim and therefor do not particularly point out or distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention as presently used. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bajorek et al. (US005264975A) in view of applicant's admitted prior art (figures 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B)
6. Bajorek et al. teaches a disk storage device that includes a first head, a first positioning mechanism, a first spindle motor and a first microprocessor, a second head,

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a second positioning mechanism a second spindle motor and a second microprocessor (see figures 1 and 2 and 7). Claim 1 additionally sets forth a single electronic interface connection which transfers communications to and from a host device and both microprocessors. In Bajorek et al. a single interface connection (52) is used to interface between each microprocessor (which can be read on elements 40, 41) and a using system. It is not clear that the using system is a host device as claimed although clearly such a connector is used in computer arrangements. Applicants admitted prior art (figures 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B) clearly teaches that connectors similar to that described by Bajorek et al. are commonly used in computer arrangements to interface with a host device which provides commands to the storage devices. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of applicants admitted prior art into the arrangement of Bajorek et al. to enable a host device to provide the overall commands for controlling the storage and retrieval of information of the storage devices. Claim 3 sets forth very similar limitations with the interconnecting circuitry between the microprocessors and the host device being claimed as a single printed circuit board. Clearly this feature is satisfied by element (51) of Bajorek et al. and would have been obviously been combined with the teaching of applicants admitted prior art for the same reasons discussed above. ***Claim Rejections***

- 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatchet et al. (US005422767A). Hatchet et al. teaches a single disk drive that encloses two distinct drives (figures 1, 5 and 9) along with corresponding disclosure which can have shared components (column 7, lines 1-5). Claim 1 in addition to the specifics of each drive sets forth that a single electronic interface connection transfers communications between the drives and a host. This feature is satisfied by connector (223) depicted in figure 9 used for interfacing between a host and at least two drives. Claim 2 in addition to the specifics of each drive sets forth a single electronic power connection to transfer power from a host to the microprocessors. This feature is satisfied by connector (221) used to power at least two drives. Claim 3 in addition to the specifics of each drive sets forth a single printed circuit board which feature is satisfied by circuit board (17). Claim 4 in addition to the specifics of each drive sets forth a single mounting means attaching the drive chassis to a host chassis. This feature is deemed satisfied by column 2, lines 36-42.

Conclusion

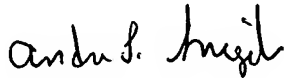
9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 20030200478A1, US006377471B1, US005953513A, US 20040072473A1 each disclose features related to the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew L. Sniezek whose telephone number is 703-308-1602. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh N Tran can be reached on 703-305-4040. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Andrew L. Sniezek
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2651

A.L.S.
3/4/05